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THE VIETNAMESE CINEMA,
A MAGNET AND LIVELY ART

by XUAN TRUONG

Vice-Minister of Culture

THE SON MY MASSACRE

D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES

Excerpts
from Nov. 24, 1969 Statement

ON March 25, 1968, the Central Trung Bo Committee of the National Front for Liberation issued a statement condemning American troops for massacring over 500 civilians in Son My village (Quang Ngai province) on March 16, 1968. By that time, the US authorities sought every way to deny and cover up the crime. But this Semtex of a statement has now been exposed to the public and has been arousing a wave of indignation in the United States and the world. A number of Americans who took part in, or witnessed, the aforesaid mass murder have valiantly revealed part of the reality.

Like the Ba Lang An, Keup, H'Rung, Tay Ninh, Thu Doi, and Pohni Conder, Phu Loi massacres, the case of Son My was but one of the innumerable abominable crimes perpetrated by the US aggressors and their lackeys in South Viet Nam. They have put into operation a huge war machine to terrorize a nation of 70 million people. They have slaughtered on a territory of only over 100,000 square kilometres a number of bombs greater than that used in World War II. They have "killed all, and left none" to destroy all the anti-US pacification raids throughout South Viet Nam. They have carried out B-52 carpet bombings and used napalm bombs and toxic chemicals to razed entire hamlets and entire areas of the Viet Nam. They have tortured and massacred Viet Nam. They have behaved in a barbarous manner those arrested by them. The US war of aggression is a genocidal war against the Vietnamese people. This loathsome crime, which will be forever cursed, has itself demonstrated the professed "US desire for 'democracy'" and "respect for the right to self-determination" of the South Vietnamese people.

The Bernard Russell International Tribunal of outstanding lawyers in the world and in the United States have come to the obvious conclusion that the US has committed the crime of war, the crime of genocide in Viet Nam. The Thieu-Kiem regime, part of the administration, a clique of traitors to the Vietnamese nation are lending a hand to the US aggressors in massacring the South Vietnamese people and trying to cover up their crimes. The responsibility does not only that of the criminals in Son My, of the US troops having perpetrated crimes in South Viet Nam, of the American pilots having bombed and strafed the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, but also that of the US ruling circles who have caused a war of aggression in Viet Nam and committed innumerable and abominable crimes against the Vietnamese people.

To put an end to the US crimes against the Vietnamese people, the US aggression must

A Horrible Crime

RECENT disclosures of the massacre of more than 500 civilians in Son My by American troops during a sweep in South Viet Nam on March 16, 1968 have deeply shocked the world and been severely condemned by public opinion. This appalling incident occurred nearly two months ago. In its issues of April 22, 1968, No. 166 and May 27, 1968, No. 166 (see article entitled "A Call for Motion to Call for Vengeance," *Viet Nam Courier* No. 166, reprinted in this issue, page 5) *Viet Nam Courier* had already brought the facts to light. Evidence so far published by US and other foreign newspapers and agencies has testified to the complete veracity of our story.

The *New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Life Magazine*, the *Plain Dealer*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Times*, *AP*, *UPI*, *AFP*, *Reuter*, etc., have released detailed accounts of the massacre, photographs taken by Joseph Haeberle, confessions volunteered by GIs

involved like Paul Modolo, Michael Bernhard, Ronald L. Roberts, Charles A. West, Charles Graver, Michael B. Terry, and evidence supplied by survivors of the Son My massacre including Doi Hiep, Doi Chau, Chau-Phan Dat and Do Da (the latter during an interview showed his right hand with 2 fingers blown off by a shell). The following is a summary which confirms the following facts, summarized by the South Viet Nam Committee to Denounce US-Puppet War Crimes in its special communiqué issued on Nov. 24, 1969:

— US troops committed the massacre in Son My village on March 16, 1968;

— The troops involved had been ordered by US authorities to keep mum over the incident; there had been US commands to wipe out the entire village and its inhabitants;

— The villagers had not taken any hostile action, US troops set fire to houses,

rounded up the inhabitants in many groups and killed them with M-16 rifles and M-6 machine-guns.

Victims of the massacre were civilians, old people, women and children, many of them suckinglings. US troops did not leave the village until they believed all the villagers had been exterminated.

A few victims escaped because they were protected by other bodies on top of them.

THOUGH the GIs who took part in the massacre were witness to it, have substantiated the above-mentioned facts, the Saigon puppet regime and the US administration have been trying hard to play down the story.

The Thieu-Kiem puppet administration claimed it has also ordered an investigation into the Son My case, but 24 hours after the order,

(Continued page 4)

SON MY MASSACRE
IN SHOCK

Today, under the socialist regime led by the Viet Nam Workers' Party, those

just also fight for their own defense and for the defense of human dignity and culture.

SON MY MOTHERS CALL FOR VENGEANCE

THE Women's Committee for Liberation of Son My village, Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province (South Viet Nam), has just denounced the massacre of 500 people, most of them women and children, perpetrated by US troops on March 16.

The inhumanity and magnitude of the massacre were denounced in a letter sent to the PLAF fighters calling on them to exact vengeance. The letter gave the following details:

"At 6:30 a.m.

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when the GIs came and tell on them.

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May 27 1970

1968

No 166

7th Year

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Little Lien took refuge in a trench with her grand parents. When her grandmother was killed, she urged her grandmother to move to another shelter but received no

A Horrible Crime

(Continued from page 1)

the Saigon Defense Ministry on Nov. 22 published a communiqué shamelessly contending that the reports and photographs from Western news agencies were completely inaccurate. IFR said officially, commented, "This means investigators had to go out there and return to the scene to prepare a report, all in a record time. While their top dogs were telling such lies, 'Tom That Kien' (puppet chief of Quang Ngai province) admitted that last year, the inhabitants denounced 'a US infantry unit for having deliberately killed 100 civilians in Truong An village, Son My area.'

For their part, US rulers at first made vague statements, saying they would make no "further comment" and they did not have "sufficient information" when Bentele and others even had the temerity to state that "the US government does not condone atrocities." Grim facts, however, have given them a new face. In November, the US Army Department acknowledged that Lieutenant William Calley alone had murdered 109 people in Son My in March last year. Washington has planned to take legal action against him. By doing so, it intends to make an example of a low-ranking officer given the Son My affair as an individual act of his unfortunate. There is ample evidence that other high-ranking colleagues had slaughtered people "on order." The *Chicago Sun-Times* (quoted on Nov. 21, Charles W. Weller, 24, who was then a sergeant and was to take part in the Son My mass murder as saying that the order to carry it out "had come from the division level."

UNDIREC fire at home and abroad, on Nov. 20, Nixon made public a White House statement on the Son My wholesale murder. He hypocritically condemned "alleged" massacre of 109 Vietnamese civilians by a US army officer, regarding it as "a direct violation of US military policy" to be "strictly according to the strict rules of military justice." On the other hand, the statement said this incident had occurred before Nixon took office, so that the present Defense Secretary had known nothing about it.

Nixon is attempting to shrug off his responsibility, but to no avail. Everybody still remembers that early April of this year, Nixon, as the US White House has declared, "I have not ordered and do not intend to order a reduction in our activities" (New York Times, April 11, 1969). He and his Defense Secretary Melvin Laird have been carrying on Johnson's old policy of "exerting maximum

Two Years after the Second Session of the Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal (Nov. 20, 1967)

THE DOSSIER OF US WAR CRIMES GROWS EVER THICKER

EDITOR'S NOTE — We reprint below, in a slightly abridged form and with sub-heads added by us, a letter of the Commission for Investigation of the US Imperialist War Crimes in Viet Nam on the occasion of the second anniversary of the second session of the Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal.



GIs of First Air Mobile Division setting fire to dwelling houses near Tam Ky (Quang Nam province) in October 1967.

Two years ago, after the Stockholm Conference (Sweden, May 1969) on the crime of aggression committed by the US against the Viet Nam people, the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal in its second session in Roshild (Denmark) condemned the US imperialist aggressors for having, in defiance of all laws on warfare, used and experimented in Viet Nam, probably for the first time, the crime against humanity and justice: to burn round the world, will fight on to force the crime of genocide against the

Viet Nam people. In the same session, the Tribunal also came to the conclusion that the US had committed the crime of aggression against Laos after having concluded its secret agreement with the US government on the crime of aggression against the Kingdom of Cambodia.

However, during the past years, disregarding public opinion in the world and in America itself, the US ruling circles continued to wage war against the Viet Nam people, supported by peace and justice lovers round the world, will fight on to force the criminal war of aggression in Viet Nam.

— ALL NIXON'S PLOTS ARE SIMPLY AIMED AT PROLONGING THE WAR

As generally known, in early April this year, Nixon declared: "I have not ordered and do not intend to order a reduction in our activities" (New York Times, April 11, 1969). Presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler specified that "the White House says the US has no plan to reduce its military operations in South Viet Nam, which represents a high level of US intention to obtain some military successes and secure a 'position of strength' to negotiate from. Indeed, in a press conference held by the White House on April 14, 1969, Nixon finally showed his elation loud: 'If we are to have a negotiating posi-



Do Do, one of the survivors of the Son My massacre, showing his two-finger-missing hand.

(To be continued)

THE Women's Committee for Liberation of Son My village, Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province (South Viet Nam), has just denounced the massacre of 500 people, 100 of them women and children perpetrated by US troops on March 16.

The unheard-of savagery and magnitude of the massacre were denounced in a letter sent to the PLAF fighters calling on them to exact vengeance. The letter gave the following details:

"At 6:30 a.m. on March 16, 1968, all the enemy batteries installed around Son My started pounding the village for more than half an hour. Then the choppers came in, strafing the locality and landing American troops whose gaunt features were visible on their faces. Then came at all that came in sight: men, women, children, elderly people, plants and animals, and destroyed everything: crops, fruit-trees, houses...

"The inhabitants who were going about their work,

...

"Lien rushed from place to place, shouting at the top of her voice, but got no reply: she only saw dead bodies and burning houses. She with her two children, ran to the 'Lang hamlet' at the foot of Hoai Van, the US aggressor committed monstrous crimes...

"After raping to death Mrs. Sam, a scavenger, the aggressors made a deep slash in her body with a bayonet. Mrs. Lien who hid in a

machine-gun or mortar fire

by Vo Nhu, 10, Nguyen Van Thi Thy, 33, Luong Hanh, 38, Le Canh Loc, 16, and Vo Thi Lien, 15, of My Linh hamlet (Son My village). It said:

"The enemy attacked aerial shelters with tear grenades, mines and sub-machinegun fire. Almost all the people hiding there were killed. They were old people, women and children. Some trying to run away were shot dead immediately like the case of the 15 people in the shelters of Mr. Lo, 7, the rest in the shelter.

"The enemy also eye-witnessed other crimes. Mr. Truong Tho, 72 years old, was savagely beaten up. His lower jaw was knocked off. He afterwards was thrown into a well, and finished with grenades and sub-machinegun fire. Little Do Thi Nguet, 12 years old, was raped and bayoneted to death. Pham Thi Mu, 15 years old, was raped and locked up in a barn which was set on fire.

"Within one hour, US troops slaughtered 350 people in Khe Thanh hamlet including 57 aged people and 170 children from one to 15 years of age. The rest were women, two of them far on in their time.

"12 families were exterminated. All the seven members of Mr. Ly Ly's family including four children, the youngest barely 4 years old, were massacred. In one case, the raiders killed a whole family save a baby. The US troops also burned hundreds of houses, and mowed down hundreds of cattle..."

"During the massacre, 57 people in our hamlet were killed, 6 others wounded. Among the dead were 9 old people, 53 children from 1 to 15 years of age and one expectant mother. The enemy also burned hundreds of houses, and many fishing boats..."

SON MY SURVIVORS SPEAK OUT

HERE are some excerpts from a letter signed by Pham Tho, 60, Miss Pham Thi Thy, 35, Miss Nguyen Thi Mu, 15, Phan Thi Muoi, a 15-year-old girl of Khe Thanh hamlet, Son My village, survivors of the Son My massacre and released by Giai Phong Press Agency in May 1968:

"The time: 6 a.m., the day, March 16, 1968.

"The people in our village were preparing for a busy day. Suddenly, US artillery from the Ram Mount, the Binh Lien position and the Quang Ngai military sector pounded the village with violence. After this, dozens of US helicopters heavily loaded with GIs arrived. The GIs got out of the helicopters and divided themselves into three groups respectively for three jobs — to burn houses and destroy people's property; to arrest the inhabitants; and to cut down trees, destroy orchards and kill the cattle...

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US First Air Mobile Division men using poison gases in a "sweat" of One Son (Quang Nam province)

...

"Our coastal village, so green with coconut palms, banana and willows is now but heaps of ashes."

Viet Nam COURIER

25th Anniversary of the Liberation of Albania (Nov. 29, 1969)

WARM GREETINGS TO THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE

THE Vietnamese people have observed with due solemnity the 25th anniversary of the liberation of the People's Republic of Albania (Nov. 29, 1969).

On Nov. 28, Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN, Le Duan, First Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Truong Chinh, President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister, sent to the Albanian Party and State leaders a warm congratulatory message.

On Nov. 27, in the evening, the CC of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the DRVN Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries held in Hanoi an impressive commemorative ceremony to mark this historic day of the brother Albanian people. Prime Minister Nguyen Van Thieu, Trade minister of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN, and others for their valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression and socialist construction.

Nguyen Khanh Toan then thanked the Albanian Party and Government for their warm support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression and socialist construction.

On the occasion, an appeal of brotherhood folks on Albania were organized in Hanoi. Viet Nam Radio and the Hanoi press gave prominence to commentaries on her achievements.

DRVN GOVERNMENT Flays US Bombing of Cambodian Territory

The DRVN Government, Nov. 25, the following statement, condemning the US imperialists' recent bombing of Cambodian territory:

On Nov. 16 and 17, 1969, US planes, including 52 aircraft and artillery, many times bombing from border posts, Daklak town, Buechek village and Sennnorom route in Mondolkiri province, inflicting many casualties on the Cambodian people, officers, soldiers and civilians, military equipment and buildings. With particular baseness, US planes even strafed Cambodian ambulances, preventing the exchange of the victims.

In strong protest, Sainthach Head of State Norodom Sihanouk pointed out that those unprecedented aggressive acts of American armed forces against Cambodia brought out the hypocrisy

of the US administration's statements made at a time when US forces are allegedly attacking a country whose only crime was refusal to submit to US domination.

The Vietnamese people are convinced that the Indo-Chinese people, the Government and people of the peace- and justice-loving countries in the world will firmly respond to the pressing appeal of Sainthach, 22nd of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and will resolutely demand that the US stop its extermination war against the Indo-Chinese peoples including the Khmer people.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government severely condemn the criminal aggressive acts of the US against the Kingdom of Cambodia. The DRVN Government supports the just position and legitimate demand of the Kingdom of Cambodia as expounded in the note of November 19, 1969 of the Cambodian

Foreign Ministry to the US Government. The US must stop forthwith all its criminal acts against the Kingdom of Cambodia, and strictly respect the independence, sovereignty, peace, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

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The "Furtive War" in Laos

THE US has been continuing a "furtive war" in Laos. As its scope has expanded day by day, its "furtiveness" has become increasingly apparent. US intervention, then aggression, in Laos, which began 10 years ago, has isolated in brutality in proportion to US failures in South Viet Nam. The US has been intervening in Laos and in Thailand with a view to building a strategic defense line along the Mekong river, for the defence of US imperialist interests in South-East Asia.

US activity in Laos has caused justified concern among public opinion right in the United States. This has been borne out by the recent congressional debates on Laos.

A NEW VIET NAM IN THE MAKING

A CORRESPONDENT of TIME magazine in Laos noted that one needed only to come to Vientiane to sense immediately Amer-

ican intervention in Laos: the telephone directory of the US Embassy in Vientiane is as thick as that of the whole of Laos. As one per capita US aid to Laos has been higher in the world over 250 million dollars per year for a country with less than 3 million population. The military strength of the US embassy is number one only, 70, but an extensive network of US military advisers and personnel is blinding the military and civilian administration of the Vientiane administration, totalling 12,000 men (ten times the size of the Harkins command that directed the "secret war" in South Viet Nam formerly). American military advisers and personnel are taking charge of all construction, training, equipping and transportation of the entire military force known as "Royal Army" (rightist army) in Laos. US military advisers are assigned down to battalion level in this army.

Apart from assisting the "Royal Army" the US has also been supporting a force of pirates recruit-

ed from among the Meo tribes, headed by a general of the Vietnamese army named Vang Pao and has made of it a "special force" which the US baptized "clandestine army". They are now operating on their own, it counts as a key strategic force to oppose "Laos" revolution. The US "Agency for International Development" (AID) in Laos is being used primarily to transport food and military equipment to this "clandestine army". Two thousand air force of the US and Continental Air Service—staffed by nearly 200 American civilians, in addition to a number of laotians, Thais and Filipinos under the control of the CIA, are also made available exclusively to cater for all the needs of the so-called "tactical support" of the same "army". General Vang Pao has not been stinted in praise: "More than any one else, not excluding the Prime Minister (Phoumi Vang Pao), he is the only man capable of stabilizing the military and political situation in Laos" (Internal

Journal Herald, October 7, 1969).

Laotian Patriotic Front

tribune, October 7, 1969) reported that the US masters of Laos have made of it a "special force" which the US baptized "clandestine army". They are now operating on their own, it counts as a key strategic force to oppose "Laos" revolution. The US "Agency for International Development" (AID) in Laos is being used primarily to transport food and military equipment to this "clandestine army". Two thousand air force of the US and Continental Air Service—staffed by nearly 200 American civilians, in addition to a number of laotians, Thais and Filipinos under the control of the CIA, are also made available exclusively to cater for all the needs of the so-called "tactical support" of the same "army". General Vang Pao has not been stinted in praise: "More than any one else, not excluding the Prime Minister (Phoumi Vang Pao), he is the only man capable of stabilizing the military and political situation in Laos" (Internal

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VIET NAM COURIER

THE "FURTIVE WAR" ... DRVN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DR OF SOMALI

(Continued from page 6)

the US assumed the role of planner and commander of each operation. Two chemical sprays on areas in Muong Phin, Phou Boub and Phou Xe, Laos, in 1969, against the civilian population and crops were also directly commanded by the US.

Meanwhile, the Vientiane administration headed by Mr. Phouma is growing increasingly dependent on the US. It is using US dollars and is placed under the absolute control of the US in all domains. It has really become an instrument for US neo-colonialism. The area under the control of the Vientiane administration is nothing less than a US neocolony. People have given witness of the many calamities and verbal attacks uttered by Mr. Phouma and his associates in conjunction with the US propaganda machine against the Lao Patriotic Front, the Alliance of Laos and the participation of the US armed forces in Laos on Laotian territory. The extension of the war in Laos along with continued US armed intervention in South Viet Nam has further strengthened US domination and put more obstacles on the path to a political solution to the Viet Nam problem and the restoration of the independence and the right of self-determination of the people of Laos. Such domination of the US is not only unrealistic; it is also dangerous."

SO LONG AS US AGGRESSION CONTINUES, THE LAOTIAN PEOPLE WILL FIGHT ON

"AS a people cherishing peace and neutrality, a peace and neutrality in the international field, the Laotian people cannot sit with folded arms in face of the brutal war of aggression unleashed by US imperialists. Under the leadership of our right to live and our existence as human beings, we Laotians, endowed with a traditional indomitable spirit, are determined to stand up and resist the US aggressors to save the country. The LPF pronounced public made on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the 1962 Geneva Agreement.

INTOLERABLE US INTERVENTION

In Laos as well as in Viet Nam, the higher the US imperialists estimate their war, the more extreme they pile up, the stronger condemnation they incur from progressive public opinion in the world. The government of

trip to the USA in November 1967, Sato openly supported the US Viet Nam policy. The Japanese administration has offered Japan as a logistic and operational base for the US aggressive war in Viet Nam. It is to be stressed that while paying lip service to the Okinawa issue, the US and Japan actually continue to slight the de-

mands of the Japanese people and world public opinion, and to use Okinawa as a base of first importance for the aggressive war against Viet Nam. The present attitude of the Sato administration obviously is one of complicity in the US military occupation of South Viet Nam, maintain the stooge puppet administration with a view to achieving the

partition of Viet Nam.

Nhat Dan (The People)

Nov. 22, 1969

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate your suggestions as they will help us to serve our more efficiently in future.

DRVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Van Thieu sent a message to Aristed Ghribi, Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of

Somali, informing him of the DRVN Government's recognition of the government of the Democratic Republic of

D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry...

(Continued from page 1)

be stopped and the US and satellite troops must be totally withdrawn from South Viet Nam.

ON Nov. 21, 1969 the spokesman of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RVSN also made public a statement on the Son My massacre and called on the peace- and justice-loving countries, democratic international organizations and the world peoples, including the American people, "to strongly condemn the US aggressors and take effective measures to check their criminal hands."

THE VIETNAMESE CINEMA...

(Continued from page 3)

resistance to the US war of destruction, we could give 449,000 performances (an anonymous heroic collective, that of the "Dan Quan" or voluntary army carriers of all ages and both sexes, all ordinary, but most courageous people in Nam Bo).

The film made by Liber- tarian Studios have exerted a considerable effect on film - fans all over the country (PLAF fighters and civilians alike) as they greatly stimulate them in the resistance against the aggressors and their henchmen.

They depict characters of great heroism, of great optimism, but also of great modesty, and hence carry great influence for spectators, those who staunchly support our struggle against the American imperialists.

It was therefore not an accident that at the two biggest international film fests held in Moscow, "Cu Chi Guerrillas and Toward the Fire Line" were awarded the highest prizes.

THE Viet Nam Workers' Party line on literature and art is the solid line of President Ho Chi Minh in his lifetime and of the Party Central Committee for the branch have been the decisive factors in maintaining the morale and combativeness of the Vietnamese cinema, so full of youth and life.

VIET NAM COURIER

